

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE C-18

WASHINGTON POST
11 MARCH 1983

JACK ANDERSON

Grand Jury Hears Witness On Bribe Try

A federal grand jury has heard sworn testimony from a witness who stated that Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) received at least \$20,000 from a middleman acting for ex-CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson, now a convicted felon.

I first broke this charge—which Thurmond has vehemently denied—in columns last month quoting the same witness, who asked that his identity be protected.

At the time, the Justice Department confirmed that it was looking into the charges, but described the case as an "inquiry" and a "routine" matter. Soon afterward, the department hurried its investigation, partly because of pressure from Thurmond, whose Judiciary Committee oversees the Justice Department.

Now the "routine inquiry" has come before a grand jury.

Meanwhile, sources say, other connections between Thurmond

and Wilson have surfaced. The FBI, for example, is investigating the employment of a Thurmond administrative aide, Dan Carrison, who reportedly went to work for Wilson. A lower-level Thurmond aide also went to work for Wilson.

But the key to the case is obviously the witness who was questioned before the grand jury several weeks ago by Assistant U.S. Attorney E. Lawrence Barcella Jr. Knowledgeable sources gave my associate Dale Van Atta details of the testimony.

The witness told the grand jury essentially what I reported earlier, with a few new wrinkles. Here's what he said:

As a Wilson employe, the witness was ordered to spy on Wilson's associates to make sure they weren't cheating. One man he was told to keep under surveillance was the middleman, who had claimed to have Thurmond's ear.

On many occasions, the middleman showed up at the offices of Delex International Inc., a Wilson company occupying Suite 710 at 1111 North 19th St., Arlington, Va. On three visits, he picked up a manila envelope stuffed with cash.

The witness said he watched a Delex employe count out \$100 bills

aloud and put at least \$10,000 in an envelope each time. The middleman then left, with the witness on his tail.

The first time, the witness lost the middleman in traffic. But the second time, he followed the go-between to the Capitol Hill Club—a Republican sanctuary on the House side of the Hill. The witness testified that he watched the middleman meet Thurmond, who was waiting, and hand over the manila envelope.

On the third occasion, the witness again followed the middleman to the Capitol Hill Club. Thurmond wasn't there. The middleman made a phone call, and Thurmond showed up minutes later and took the envelope.

The middleman then returned to Delex and went out for drinks at a nearby restaurant—with the witness and two other men. One of them was Thomas Clines, an old CIA buddy of Wilson's.

The witness has said he telephoned Wilson to report the successful deliveries, referring to Thurmond only as the "same man."

Wilson and the middleman have both denied any attempt to bribe Thurmond.